BEFORE THE PERSONNEL APPEALS BOARD 1 STATE OF WASHINGTON 2 3 STEFFANIE K. CHAU, 4 Appellant, Case No. ALLO-00-0038 5 v. ORDER OF THE BOARD FOLLOWING HEARING ON EXCEPTIONS TO THE 6 EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DEPARTMENT, DETERMINATION OF THE DIRECTOR 7 Respondent. 8 9 **Hearing on Exceptions.** This appeal came on for hearing before the Personnel Appeals Board, 10 GERALD L. MORGEN, Vice Chair, and LEANA D. LAMB, Member. The hearing was held on 11 March 22, 2001, in the Personnel Appeals Board hearing room in Olympia, Washington. WALTER 12 T. HUBBARD, Chair, did not participate in the hearing or in the decision in this matter. 13 14 Appellant Steffanie K. Chau was present and appeared pro se. Appearances. Respondent 15 Employment Security Department (ESD) was represented by Marilyn Dawson and Carol 16 Rembaugh, Human Resource Managers. 17 18 **Background.** Appellant requested a reallocation of her position by submitting a classification 19 questionnaire (CQ) to the ESD Human Resources office on March 9, 2000. Appellant asked that 20 her position be reallocated to the Cost Reimbursement Analyst 1 classification. By letter dated May 21 1, 2000, Carol Rembaugh determined that Appellant's position was properly allocated to the 22 Accountant 2 classification. 23 24 Appellant appealed Ms. Rembaugh's decision to the Director of the Department of Personnel. On 25 August 15, 2000, the Director's designee, Paul Peterson, conducted an allocation review of

> Personnel Appeals Board 2828 Capitol Boulevard Olympia, Washington 98504

1

Appellant's position. By letter dated September 5, 2000, Mr. Peterson determined that Appellant's

26

position was properly allocated. On September 25, 2000, Appellant filed timely exceptions to the Director's determination with the Personnel Appeals Board. Appellant's exceptions are the subject of this proceeding.

By letter dated October 9, 2000, Appellant provided her specific exceptions to the Director's determination. Appellant asked that her position be reallocated to the either the Accountant 3 or the

Cost Reimbursement Analyst 1 classification.

Appellant previously appealed the allocation of her position. In that appeal, Appellant requested that her position be reallocated to the Accountant 3 or the Financial Coordinator 1 classification. On February 24, 1999, the Board issued a decision denying the appeal. The Board concluded that Appellant's position was fully described by the Accountant 2 classification.

Summary of Appellant's Argument. Appellant argues that her representative failed to represent her interests at the Director's review which led the Director's designee to incorrectly conclude that Appellant does not understand her job. Appellant contends that management failed to assist her in writing her CQ and that she lost her prior appeal to the Board because of her lack of knowledge of the reallocation process. Appellant asserts that she provides technical support and information to management when she answers their questions, that she prepares work sheets, monthly reports and financial reports. Appellant argues that management uses the information she provides to forecast revenues and to determine budget expenditures. Appellant contends that her duties and responsibilities go beyond the Accountant 2 classification, that she is on the employment register for the Accountant 3, and that on a best fit basis, her position should be reallocated to a cost coordinator position.

allocated to the Accountant 2 classification should be affirmed.

Washington State University, PAB Case No. 3722-A2 (1994).

Relevant Classifications. Accountant 2, class code 12120; Accountant 3, class code 12140; and Cost Reimbursement Analyst 1, class code 12270.

Whether the Director's determination that Appellant's position is properly

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

9

10

11

12

13

Primary Issue.

Decision of the Board. The purpose of a position review is to determine which classification best describes the overall duties and responsibilities of a position. A position review is neither a measurement of the volume of work performed, nor an evaluation of the expertise with which that work is performed. Also, a position review is not a comparison of work performed by employees in similar positions. A position review is a comparison of the duties and responsibilities of a particular position to the available classification specifications. This review results in a determination of the class which best describes the overall duties and responsibilities of the position. Liddle-Stamper v.

23

24

25

26

Appellant expressed her concerns about filling out the CQ without management's assistance. The Board has frequently stated that a CQ that is completed by an incumbent should be used to allocate the incumbent's position. Management is not required to assist an employee with completing the

CQ. In this case, Appellant signed and submitted a CQ with her reallocation request. She has not shown that the CQ did not accurately describe her duties and responsibilities.

Appellant works in the Treasurer's Office of the Employment Security Department. The Treasurer's Office accounts for the unemployment insurance funds and tracks funds to ensure that they are available to cover the expenditures.

The Cost Reimbursement Analyst 1 classification is a Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) agency unique class. Appellant works for the Employment Security Department. Therefore, allocation to a DSHS classification is not appropriate. Furthermore, Appellant does not review financial statements, organization structures, and service delivery modes to establish reimbursement rates for vendors of department programs nor does she assist in developing and administering the budget for an automated cost allocation system or preparing reports for claiming Federal matching funds.

The Accountant 3 classification is a lead or supervisory classification. Appellant has failed to provide any information to support her claim that she is performing duties at this level. Appellant is not assigned lead or supervisory duties. Furthermore, a majority of Appellant's duties and responsibilities do not fall within at least four of the nine functions listed in the distinguishing characteristics of the Accountant 3 classification. Therefore, allocation to the Accountant 3 classification is not appropriate.

Appellant's position continues to be fully described by the Accountant 2 classification. She performs a variety of accounting functions within the Treasurer's Office as required by the definition of the class. The majority of Appellant's work falls within the duties listed in the distinguishing characteristics of the Accountant 2 classification. Appellant analyses data and

Personnel Appeals Board 2828 Capitol Boulevard Olympia, Washington 98504

1	financial statements and provides information and advice to management. Appellant's duties and
2	responsibilities are best described by the Accountant 2 classification.
3	
4	Conclusion. The appeal on exceptions by Appellant should be denied and the Director's
5	determination, dated September 5, 2000, should be affirmed and adopted.
6	
7	ORDER
8	NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the appeal on exceptions by Appellant is
9	denied and the Director's determination, dated September 5, 2000, is affirmed and adopted. A copy
10	is attached.
11	DATED this, 2001.
12	
13	WASHINGTON STATE PERSONNEL APPEALS BOARD
14	
15	Gerald L. Morgen, Vice, Chair
16	
17	Leana D. Lamb, Member
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	